

Copper River & Northwest Railway  
Million Dollar Bridge  
Cordova  
Alaska

HAER No. AK-10

HAER

AK,

20-CORD.V,

1-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

ADDENDUM  
FOLLOWS.

Historic American Engineering Record  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, DC 20013-7127

ARCHITECTURAL DATA FORM

STATE ALASKA	COUNTY	TOWN OR VICINITY CORDOVA VICINITY
HISTORIC NAME OF STRUCTURE (INCLUDE SOURCE FOR NAME) Copper River and Northwest Railway Million Dollar Bridge (Janson)		HAER No. AK-10
SECONDARY OR COMMON NAMES OF STRUCTURE Glacier Bridge		
COMPLETE ADDRESS (DESCRIBE LOCATION FOR RURAL SITES) On the Copper River at Miles Glacier		
DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE SOURCE) 1909-1911 (Janson)	ARCHITECT(S) (INCLUDE SOURCE) A.C.O'Neel (Janson)	
SIGNIFICANCE (ARCHITECTURAL AND HISTORICAL, INCLUDE ORIGINAL USE OF STRUCTURE) One of two "impossible bridges" across the Copper R., one of unprecedented size and strength, built across the faces of two glaciers and key to the success of the CR&NWRR, which was to be the All American railway to the Yukon R., this bridge was associated with the drama of Michael J. Heney, railroader, and A.C O'Neel, engineer and the Cordova coal controversey.		
STYLE (IF APPROPRIATE)		
MATERIAL OF CONSTRUCTION (INCLUDE STRUCTURAL SYSTEMS) steel, concrete		
SHAPE AND DIMENSIONS OF STRUCTURE (SKETCHED FLOOR PLANS ON SEPARATE PAGES ARE ACCEPTABLE) 1,550' long; three caissons; four spans		
EXTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE detachable ice breakers at piers		
INTERIOR FEATURES OF NOTE (DESCRIBE FLOOR PLANS, IF NOT SKETCHED)		
MAJOR ALTERATIONS AND ADDITIONS WITH DATES 1938, CR&NWRR closes; 1958, concrete decking, new rollers and paint to convert bridge to automobile traffic as part of the Copper River Highway; March 27, 1964, Good Friday Earthquake, fourth span shaken into the river; soon after a ramp was built over the gap.		
PRESENT CONOITION AND USE Automobile bridge at the end of the Copper River Highway.		
OTHER INFORMATION AS APPROPRIATE		
SOURCES OF INFORMATION (INCLUDING LISTING ON NATIONAL REGISTER, STATE REGISTERS, ETC.) Janson, Lone E. <u>The Copper Spike</u> . Anchorage, Alaska: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1975.		
COMPILER, AFFILIATION Sandra M. Faulkner, Historian, National Park Service		DATE July 23, 1986

ADDENDUM TO

COPPER RIVER AND NORTHWEST RAILWAY, MILLION DOLLAR BRIDGE  
(MILLION DOLLAR BRIDGE)

(GLACIER BRIDGE)

Spanning Copper River at Miles Glacier

Cordova Vicinity

Valdez-Cordova County

Alaska

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

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